Washington Village U3A Committee, Glebe Scout Hut

10.00am – 17th April 2025

Attending: Derek Ginsberg (Chair), Lyn Bossons, Catherine Hambley, Maggie Hope, Tania LeMarinel, Ian McIntosh, Richard Mulvey, Pauline Palmer, Julie Stevens.

25.50 Welcome
The Chair welcomed Committee members and observers to the meeting.

25.51 Apologies
Carolyn Baxter, John Edwards, Helen Edwards, Sandra Graham

25.52 Minutes of the meeting of 20th March 2025 were considered and minor errors being addressed, acceptance was proposed by Derek, seconded by Julie and approved by all.

25.53 Matters arising

25.21 Speaker Secretary's Report
Speakers/performers are now booked until July excepting the short slot following the AGM in May: a 30 minutes talk is needed. The July meeting is a "Summer Fayre": One Voice choir will perform for about 40 minutes and it was agreed to extend the entertainment by asking some groups to do something on the theme of summer in a 10-20 minutes slot. Suggestions included Comedy and Sketches, Creative Writing, Drawing and Painting, Reading groups.
Closed: Carolyn to seek May speaker from Speakers' List.
Closed: Carolyn to ask some group leaders about performances at July's meeting.

25.54 Monthly meetings
The survey taken on the issue of monthly meeting timings, with a proposed amendment from 11am to 10.30 to try to reduce the number of members who leave before the speaker ends his/her talk by passed by two to one in favour of the change. Lyn proposed, Julie seconded and all agreed the change to a 10.30 start from the May meeting.
Action: Derek to email membership to advise of change of timing
Action: John to inform the Stella of the monthly meeting timing change
Action: Helen to update website

25.55 AGM

a) The documentation for the AGM is ready to send out. Derek's report is ongoing but should be completed by next weekend. Lyn has already sent out the financial statement and assets register for advance membership consideration. The powerpoint presentation is also finalised and approved.

b) The minutes from last year are to go out in draft format, subject to final approval by the membership at the meeting.

c) Action: John to send out the agenda and draft minutes

d) The jamming group will perform for our entertainment.

e) Tea/coffee will be served before the AGM business.

25.56 Treasurer's Report

- Monthly Financial Report
  - No new members this month.
  - Refreshment costs were Speaker (£50), the Stella (£90)
  - Wine and bottle bags for committee leavers (£57), Mem/ship Secretary expenses (£10)
  - It is anticipated that Table Tennis will be in credit again by end of April.
  - Day Trips have not yet forwarded their invoice, expected imminently.

- Annual Financial Report
  - No group bills have been paid yet.
  - Bank balance at the end of March is also end of financial year balance.
  - Various groups may have to adjust their subs, both up and down to maintain balance.
  - Our reserve balance is £5,631.35
  - Tony Morrell had reviewed and approved the accounts. £10 Amazon voucher to be given to Tony as a thank you.
  - Helen Edwards is to take over as Treasurer.

25.57 PR Update

Not a great deal of updates for PR. Links for Life is being updated.

Action: Helen to amend the website for the new location of committee meetings

25.58 IT/Website update

The website continues to operate well and to be used. There is little change in the profile of use, technologies used to access it etc.

Committee members are reminded that those changing roles need to handover / access the relevant google accounts (*.wvu3a@gmail.com). Also for some members there will be a need to change the email used on Beacon. Documents are attached highlighting what to do.

25.59 Environment update

The Climate Action Sunderland presentation at April's monthly meeting seems to have been well received by members. As a result I have updated/amended the Environment Bulletin page and subpages on the website and emailed all WVu3a members about this.

In May there is a "Sustainability Week" at the University of Sunderland with a range of activities and talks which are available to the public. Also "Wonky Community" in Hendon are hosting a "Swish for Good!" event [clothes swapping]. I will advertise both by email for May's actions.

25.60 Business Secretary report.

a. I have notified The Stella that the committee meetings have been moved to the Scout Headquarters
b. I have emailed the Scout Group to confirm the meeting times, and asked for the invoices for the committee to be separately issued to other u3a activity held at the scout headquarters. I believe Lyn may also have requested this.
c. The usual regional circulars have been issued to all members.
d. The nomination forms for the new committee have been scanned to the Business Secretary Google Drive and shared with the Chair and Treasurer Lead Officer Roles.

25.61 Group Co-Ordinator's report

The newly formed Discussion Group met on 8th April and plan to continue meeting monthly during term time.
The Theatre & Cinema Group has closed as a replacement group leader has not been found.
Secretary's Note: Information circulated post meeting.

25.62 Speaker Secretary's report

a) May AGM jamming group have been booked.

b) June speaker – Woolworths in the North by Graham Soult– and July choir are to be advised of earlier change of time.
Action: Carolyn to advise speakers of earlier change of time

c) July summer event, cream tea refreshments at a cost of £5.50 agreed. The event is to be ticketed, with a member contribution of £2. Noted a cost of £40 for ticket printing.
d) **Action: Tania to design tickets.**

e) July entertainment is planned to be singers/refreshments/group entertainment (Reading groups 1 and 2 followed by Creative Writing and Comedy group) with Drawing group and Photography groups to display work on group board/screen. This format unanimously agreed by the committee.
Action: Derek to follow up on details

25.63 Membership Secretary's Report

90 people out of 279 have not renewed their membership. A reminder will be sent out as will another in advance of the next meeting noting this last opportunity to pay in cash.

Action: Julie will not be present but Pauline has kindly agreed to step in to assist.

25.64 Members Liaison Report

Two cards have been posted this month. In addition an Easter card has been posted to Cheryl, and a plant will be delivered to Margaret.

25.65 Regional and Network update

The Regional AGM will take place next week. The current Chair's term of office is finished with no apparent replacement as yet. Should no replacement be found, Northumbria Region might be disbanded. Update to follow. Noted that there is no obligation for any u3a to be part of a region.

25.66 Any other business

The Kurling equipment offered to local u3as has not been taken up, however Wearside u3a have indicated their interest as they may be setting up a new group. Await further developments.